

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan

Learning English with CBC



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta

Alberta The Alberta logo, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized script font with a small yellow square icon to the right.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

Calgary

October 11, 2016

News story #1 Ottawa announces carbon tax for provinces (0:11)

Setting the Scene



(Darryl Dyck/Canadian Press) (CBC file photo)

The government of Canada is working to help the environment. They want to create laws so that people will use more clean energy. They want people to use less energy sources that cause pollution. The province of Alberta is a big energy-producer in the country. Some people say that it would be too expensive or difficult to change the current system.

Pre-listening Questions

What are some different kinds of energy people use? Which kinds do you use?

What daily activities require energy? Make a list of everything you do in a day that uses energy.

Vocabulary

Find the Definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**. Answers are in the appendix.

1. The sky looks grey because of the **carbon** smoke from the factories.
 - a. A chemical element, connected to pollution
 - b. A chemical element, connected to cooking
2. To help the environment, I will **reduce** the amount of driving I do, and walk instead.
 - a. Make faster
 - b. Make lower
3. When you open the freezer door, there is an **emission** of cold air into the kitchen.
 - a. Something changed
 - b. Something sent out
4. Some plants need a lot of **solar** energy, so you should keep them near a window.
 - a. Related to the sun
 - b. Related to the soil
5. She goes running every day, even if it's raining. She is **committed to** her exercise plan.
 - a. Trying to stop something
 - b. Giving time and energy to something
6. The government built a **pipeline** that connects the north of the province to the south.
 - a. Tubes that carry something over a long distance
 - b. Tubes that make music with air or wind
7. Next month, the province will **introduce** a law that all bike riders must wear helmets.
 - a. Cause something to change
 - b. Cause something to begin

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

territories – areas of land controlled by governments

fossil fuel - fuel formed underground from dead plants and animals

greenhouse gasses – gasses that go into the air and contribute to global warming

diesel, propane – types of gas

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2m4hqq

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Matching

Read the subjects (people, places, or things) below. As you listen to the audio, complete the sentences by matching the subject with the correct information that follows. Retell the story using the sentences you create. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Subject		Information
The provinces and territories	•	...to avoid paying the tax.
There is a plan to reduce	•	...for carbon emissions.
They will charge a price	•	...will start in January.
Using fossil fuels will be more expensive	•	...if the government committed to building a pipeline.
People would choose cleaner technologies	•	...must pay a price on carbon by 2018.
Rachel Notley would only support Ottawa's plan	•	...to introduce a carbon tax.
Alberta already has a plan	•	...than solar or wind energy.
Alberta's carbon tax	•	...Canada's greenhouse gases.

Food for Thought

Why do you think some people are worried about this tax?

In your country, are people concerned about the environment? Are there laws to protect it?

What can you do in your life to help the environment?

News story #2

Calgary man murders wife of 56 years (1:13)

Setting the Scene



Fred van Zuiden of Calgary (Facebook) (CBC File photo)

An 85-year-old man in Calgary was charged with the murder of his wife. It was a very surprising crime. The man probably has dementia, a mental illness. If this is true, the court must decide how to process the crime.

Pre-listening Questions

What do you know about dementia? Can you think of any other mental illnesses?

When someone is mentally ill, who should take care of them?

In your country, where do mentally ill people live? Are there health facilities for them?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	connection (n.)	a) a mental illness where a person can't think clearly
_____	accused (adj.)	b) a place where judges make decisions related to the law
_____	court (n.)	c) a place that is used for a specific purpose
_____	appearance (n.)	d) very sad
<u>a</u>	dementia (n.)	e) not proper, unacceptable
_____	tragic (adj.)	f) believed to be a criminal
_____	assessment (n.)	g) the act of being seen
_____	fit (adj.)	h) proper, acceptable
_____	stand trial (v.)	i) a judgement about something
_____	facility (n.)	j) something that joins things together
_____	unfit (adj.)	k) to go to court and let the judge decide about your case

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

second-degree murder – a murder that is deliberate but not planned

forensic psychiatrist – a mental health doctor in the field of crime

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2m4oj7

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Audrey van Zuiden died in Rideau Park last month.
2. Fred van Zuiden has been charged with second-degree theft.
3. Police came on Tuesday morning after the man called 911.
4. Fred van Zuiden told the courts that he probably has dementia.
5. The psychiatrist recommended a 30-day assessment.
6. A friend of the couple thinks Fred had dementia for years.
7. Fred and Audrey were both 56 years old.
8. Fred will be back in court on November 5th.
9. Fred may be sent to a mental health facility instead of prison.

Food for thought

What kind of punishment do you think Fred van Zuiden should get?

Do you think mentally ill people should be punished for crimes?

Do you think mentally ill people get enough care? Is there anything else that governments or communities can do to help them?

News story #3 Kim Kardashian West robbed in Paris (2:34)

Setting the Scene



Kim Kardashian West (Andrew Medichini/Associated Press) (CBC file photo)

Kim Kardashian West is an American celebrity. She is known for her beauty and fashion. She has a reality television show with her family. It shows their everyday lives. Many people like her for being a businesswoman, and for being proud of her beauty. Many people criticize her for being too focused on her beauty, instead of intelligence or talent.

Pre-listening Questions

What do you know about Kim Kardashian West?

Do you ever watch reality TV? Which shows?

Is reality TV popular in your country? Does your country have celebrities who are similar to Kim Kardashian West?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the synonym (word with similar meaning) that best matches each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
_____	armed (adj.)	a) upset
_____	robbers (n.)	b) pushed
_____	forced (v.)	c) presenting
_____	tied up (v.)	d) carrying a gun
_____	shaken (adj.)	e) expensive things
_____	incident (n.)	f) unusual
_____	suspects (n.)	g) event
_____	valuables (n.)	h) thieves
_____	performing (n.)	i) possible criminals
_____	rare (adj.)	j) bind (with rope)

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

reality TV – television shows where real people are filmed, without a story or acting

spokesperson – a person who makes statements for another person

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2m4pvx

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Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Listen to the news story and circle the best answer to complete the sentences.

Answers are *in the appendix*.

1. Kim Kardashian West was in Paris for **Clash / Fashion / Fraction** week.
2. The robbers stole more than **10 million / 1 million / 10 billion** dollars worth of jewelry.
3. The robbery happened early **Wednesday / Monday / Sunday** morning.
4. The thieves tied her up and locked her in the **bedroom / balcony / bathroom**.
5. She left Paris for her home in **New York City / New Shore City / North York City**.
6. Police in Paris are looking for **five / French / final** suspects.
7. They left with a box with valuables worth more than **16 / 60 / 6** million dollars.
8. Rapper Kanye West was performing a **coaching / concert / curling** when he heard the news.
9. The couple's children **Norm and Stan / Norah and Zayn / North and Saint** were not with their mother.
10. The mayor of Paris calls the incident "very **rare / real / wrong**".

Food for thought

Have you ever been victim of a crime? What happened?

What do you do to stay safe and prevent theft? Are you more or less careful when you travel?

What are the most valuable things you own? They could be expensive, or they could be important for personal reasons. How do you keep them safe? What would you do if you lost them?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	OCTOBER WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Shannon Scott and this is Learning English with the CBC for October 11 th with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has told the provinces and territories they must place a price on carbon by 2018, and if they don't, he will do it for them. It's part of a plan to reduce Canada's greenhouse gasses. Charging a price for carbon emissions makes using fossil fuels, such as gasoline, diesel, natural gas, and propane more expensive than solar or wind energy. The hope is people and companies would then choose cleaner technologies to avoid paying the tax. Premier Rachel Notley has said she would only support Ottawa's plan if the federal government committed to building a pipeline. Alberta already has a plan to introduce a carbon tax. It will start in January.	0:11
Story 2	Very tragic and very rare. That is how Calgary Police are describing the death of 80-year-old Audrey van Zuiden in Rideau Park last week. Her 85-year-old husband, Fred van Zuiden, has been charged with second-degree murder in connection with her death. Police were called to the couple's home early Tuesday morning after the accused man called 911. During his first court appearance, a forensic psychiatrist told the courts that Fred van Zuiden probably has dementia. He has recommended a 30-day assessment to see if he is mentally fit to stand trial. A friend of the couple believes Fred has had dementia for years but said Audrey wanted to take care of her husband herself. The couple had been married for 56 years. Fred Van Zuiden will be back in court on November 4th. If he is found mentally unfit to stand trial, he will be sent to a mental health facility instead of prison.	1:13
Story 3	Kim Kardashian West has been robbed in Paris. The reality TV star was in the city for Fashion Week when armed robbers forced their way into where she was staying. They stole more than 10 million dollars US worth of jewelry. It happened early Monday morning. Police say the thieves tied up Kardashian West and locked her in the bathroom. Her spokesperson says she wasn't hurt, but is badly shaken. She left Paris for her home in New York City a few hours after the incident. Police in Paris are looking for five suspects. Officials say they left with a jewelry box with valuables worth more than 6 million dollars and a four-point-five million dollar ring. Kardashian West is married to rapper Kanye West. He was performing a concert in New York when he heard the news. He quickly stopped his performance. The couple's two children, North and Saint, were not with their mother when the robbery happened. The mayor of Paris calls the incident "very rare".	2:34

Answer keys –

News story 1 – Ottawa announces carbon tax for provinces (0:11)

Vocabulary

1. The sky looks grey because of the **carbon** smoke from the factories.
 - a. A chemical element, connected to pollution
 - b. A chemical element, connected to cooking
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 - a. Make faster
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3. When you open the freezer door, there is an **emission** of cold air into the kitchen.
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4. Some plants need a lot of **solar** energy, so you should keep them near a window.
 - a. Related to the sun
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5. She goes running every day, even if it's raining. She is **committed to** her exercise plan.
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6. The government built a **pipeline** that connects the north of the province to the south.
 - a. Tubes that carry something over a long distance
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7. Next month, the province will **introduce** a law that all bike riders must wear helmets.
 - a. Cause something to change
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Listening

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Rachel Notley would only support Ottawa's plan	...to introduce a carbon tax.
Alberta already has a plan	...than solar or wind energy.
Alberta's carbon tax	...Canada's greenhouse gases.

News story 2 – Calgary man murders wife of 56 years (1:13)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<u>j</u>	connection (n.)	a) a mental illness where a person can't think clearly
<u>f</u>	accused (adj.)	b) a place where judges make decisions related to the law
<u>b</u>	court (n.)	c) a place that is used for a specific purpose
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<u>d</u>	tragic (adj.)	e) not proper, unacceptable
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Listening

1. F Audrey van Zuiden died in Rideau Park last month.
2. F Fred van Zuiden has been charged with second-degree theft.
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6. T A friend of the couple thinks Fred had dementia for years.
7. F Fred and Audrey were both 56 years old.
8. F Fred will be back in court on November 5th.
9. T Fred may be sent to a mental health facility instead of prison.

News story 3 - Kim Kardashian West robbed in Paris (2:34)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
<u>d</u>	armed (adj.)	a) upset
<u>h</u>	robbers (n.)	b) pushed
<u>b</u>	forced (v.)	c) presenting
<u>j</u>	tied up (v.)	d) carrying a gun
<u>a</u>	shaken (adj.)	e) expensive things
<u>g</u>	incident (n.)	f) unusual
<u>i</u>	suspects (n.)	g) event
<u>e</u>	valuables (n.)	h) thieves
<u>c</u>	performing (n.)	i) possible criminals
<u>f</u>	rare (adj.)	j) bind (with rope)

Listening

1. Kim Kardashian West was in the city for **Clash / Fashion / Fraction** week.
2. The robbers stole more than **10 million / 1 million / 10 billion** dollars worth of jewelry.
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4. The thieves tied her up and locked her in the **bedroom / balcony / bathroom**.
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8. Rapper Kanye West was performing a **coaching / concert / curling** when he heard the news.
9. The couple's children **Norm and Stan / Norah and Zayn / North and Saint** were not with their mother.
10. The mayor of Paris calls the incident "very **rare / real / wrong**".